GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5554
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2005
SCHEME TO PROMOTE PRODUCTION OF PULSES AND OILSEEDS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is working on any scheme to bring the food subsidy to the minimum level;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up any policy-mechanism for the farmers to encourage them to grow crops like pulses and oil seeds;

(c) if so, the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether the Government is considering any scheme to impose a ceiiing on the increase in MSP of major foodgrains; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) With a view to contain the subsidy, Government is encouraging decentralized procurement and distribution of foodgrains; reduction in rate of interest on borrowings by the Food Corporation of India (FCI); liquidation of excess stocks to reduce carrying cost etc.

(b) and (c) Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) in 14 major oilseeds and pulses growing States with a view to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses in the country. Under the scheme assistance is provided to farmers for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, plant protection chemicals and equipments, weedicides, gypsum/ pyrite/liming/dolomite, sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, supply or rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilising bacteria etc. to encourage farmers to grow oilseeds and pulses.

(d) and (e) The Government, at present, has no scheme to impose a ceiiing on the increase in MSP of major foodgrains. However, with a view to providing necessary price signal to promote diversification into pulses and oilseeds for which India depends on imports to bridge domestic demand supply gap, the Government have been announcing relatively higher Minimum Support Prices for pulses and oilseeds vis-a-vis other crops, particularly cereals.